

MONTANA ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

August 2003

UNEMPLOYMENT BY COUNTY

Not seasonally adjusted

	August 2002	August 2003*
UNITED STATES	5.7%	6.0%
MONTANA	3.4%	3.8%
Cascade **	3.4%	3.9%
Missoula **	3.0%	3.1%
Yellowstone **	3.1%	3.1%
Beaverhead	3.2%	2.8%
Big Horn	11.4%	12.5%
Blaine	4.7%	3.9%
Broadwater	2.7%	3.4%
Carbon	2.7%	2.9%
Carter	2.2%	2.3%
Chouteau	1.8%	1.8%
Custer	2.2%	2.2%
Daniels	1.7%	1.1%
Dawson	2.1%	1.7%
Deer Lodge	4.8%	4.7%
Fallon	2.5%	1.6%
Fergus	3.1%	3.3%
Flathead	3.5%	5.1%
Gallatin	1.8%	1.9%
Garfield	2.0%	0.9%
Glacier	7.4%	10.0%
Golden Valley	3.1%	5.1%
Granite	4.7%	3.8%
Hill	3.4%	3.8%
Jefferson	3.4%	3.6%
Judith Basin	3.8%	3.1%
Lake	5.4%	5.5%
Lewis & Clark	3.5%	3.4%
Liberty	2.7%	2.7%
Lincoln	8.4%	12.9%
McCone	0.6%	1.2%
Madison	1.9%	2.3%
Meagher	2.9%	4.4%
Mineral	5.9%	7.1%
Musselshell	7.0%	5.5%
Park	2.4%	3.0%
Petroleum	1.6%	4.1%
Phillips	3.1%	3.2%
Pondera	3.6%	5.4%
Powder River	0.8%	0.9%
Powell	3.4%	4.1%
Prairie	3.2%	1.2%
Ravalli	3.5%	4.2%
Richland	4.2%	3.4%
Roosevelt	7.3%	7.7%
Rosebud	6.3%	6.2%
Sanders	5.0%	6.8%
Sheridan	2.2%	2.6%
Silver Bow	4.2%	4.7%
Stillwater	2.5%	2.5%
Sweet Grass	1.9%	2.3%
Teton	2.8%	2.6%
Toole	2.4%	3.1%
Treasure	2.2%	1.8%
Valley	2.7%	2.8%
Wheatland	3.0%	2.2%
Wibaux	3.6%	2.2%

*August 2003 rate preliminary

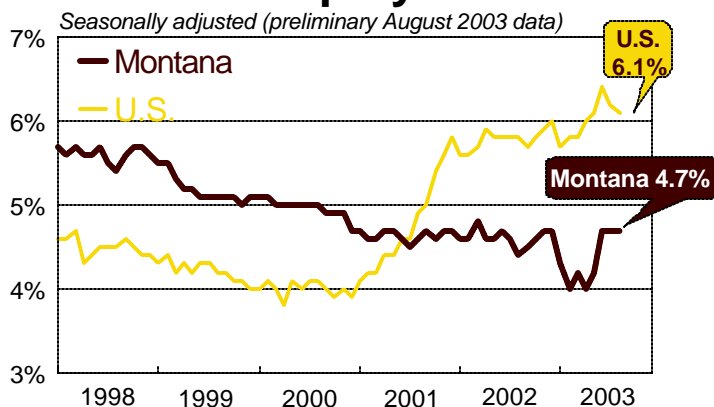
** Cascade=Great Falls MSA

Missoula= Missoula MSA

Yellowstone=Billings MSA

AUGUST 2003 HIGHLIGHTS

Unemployment

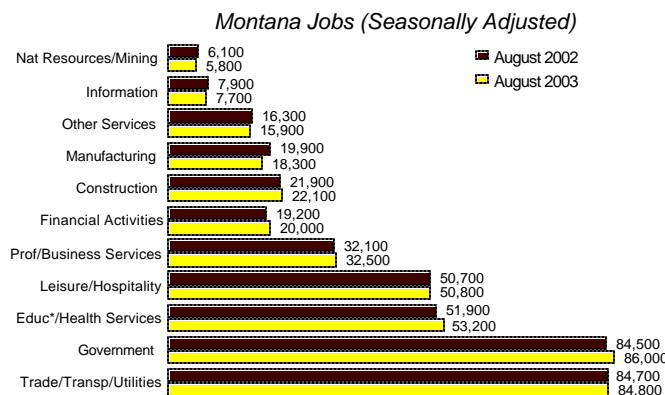


Montana's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate continues to be lower than the U.S. rate. The state's August unemployment of 4.7 percent was 1.4 percentage points lower than the nation's.

Earnings

Average weekly earnings for Montana's private sector production workers were up 6.3 percent over the year for August, outpacing the 2.2 percent over-the-year increase in U.S. inflation.

Nonag Payroll Employment



*Private educational services. (Public education is included in the government sector.)

Montana's seasonally-adjusted, nonagricultural payroll employment was up about 1,900 jobs (0.5 percent) over the year for August. The largest over-the-year gains were in government, private education & health services, financial activities and professional & business services.

CENSUS 2000

Who are "The Boomers" and where are they in Montana?

The "Baby Boom" generation includes people born between 1946 and 1964; putting them at about the ages of 39 to 57 years old in 2003.

Census 2000 information shows that out of the 902,195 people living in Montana, 254,641 are "Baby Boomers." Of those "Boomers," 126,917 are females and 127,724 are males. "Boomers" make up 28 percent of Montana's total population. The following shows five counties with more than 30 percent of their population made up of "Baby Boomers." The county with the lowest percent of "Boomers" is Big Horn, at 24 percent. To find more Montana counties' "Baby Boomer" populations and more Census information, visit the Montana Census and Economic Information Center at:

<http://ceic.commerce.state.mt.us>

County	# of Boomers	# of Residents	Percent Boomers
Jefferson	3,547	10,049	35%
Prairie	417	1,199	35%
Musselshell	1,451	4,497	32%
Park	5,023	15,694	32%
Carbon	2,999	9,552	31%

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TAKING CARE OF MONTANA'S AGING POPULATION

Baby Boomers taking care of aging parents look to health care practitioners/technicians and health care support occupations to ensure their parents receive the best care.

The following three Health Care Support Occupations for Montana workers are from **Montana Informational Wage Rates by Occupation for 2001**, current jobs existing and projected job openings (based on **Montana Job Projections, 2000 to 2010**), and training needs for these occupations.

♦**Home Health Aides** - Provide routine, personal healthcare, such as bathing, dressing or grooming to elderly, convalescent or disabled persons in the home of patients or in a residential care facility.

Illustrative Example: Home Attendant

Hourly Wage (Middle Range) \$7.21- \$9.06

Average Annual Wage \$17,310 (assumes full-time)

Training Needed Short-term on-the-job training

Jobs Existing in Year 2000 2,663

Jobs Projected for Year 2010 3,570

♦**Nursing Aides, Orderlies and Attendants** - Provide basic patient care under direction of nursing staff.

Perform duties, such as feed, bathe, dress, groom, or move patients, or change linens. Exclude Home Health Aides and Psychiatric Aides. *Illustrative*

Examples: Certified Nursing Assistant, Hospital Aide, Infirmary Attendant

Hourly Wage (Middle Range) \$7.23 - \$9.09

Average Annual Wage \$17,050 (assumes full-time)

Training Needed Short-term on-the-job training

Jobs Existing in Year 2000 5,040

Jobs Projected for Year 2010 6,155

♦**Medical Assistants** - Perform administrative and certain clinical duties under the direction of physician. Administrative duties may include scheduling appointments, maintaining medical records, billing and coding for insurance purposes. Clinical duties may include taking and recording vital signs and medical histories, preparing patients for examination, drawing blood and administering medications as directed by physician. Exclude Physician Assistants. *Illustrative Examples: Morgue*

Attendant, Ophthalmic Aide, Physicians Aide

Hourly Wage (Middle Range) \$9.01 - \$11.51

Average Annual Wage \$21,910 (assumes full-time)

Training Needed Moderate-term on-the-job training

Jobs Existing in Year 2000 797

Jobs Projected for Year 2010 1,212

For more information on Montana Informational Wage Rates by Occupation for 2001 and Montana Job Projections for 2000 to 2010, visit our website at www.ourfactsyourfuture.org.

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